

REMARKS

Claims 2 and 5-11 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, claims 2, 5 and 7-10 are amended to depend from claim 11. Claims 2 and 9 are also amended to correct informalities. No new matter is added. Claims 1, 3, 4 and 12 are canceled without prejudice to, or disclaimer of, the subject matter recited in those claims. Reconsideration of the application in view of the above amendments and the following remarks is respectfully requested.

Entry of the amendments is proper under 37 CFR §1.116 (b) (1) because the amendments place the application in condition for allowance by canceling rejected subject matter. The amendments are necessary and were not earlier presented because they are made in response to arguments raised in the final rejection. Entry of the amendments is thus respectfully requested.

Applicant appreciates the courtesies shown to Applicant's representative by Examiner Thomas in the March 2 personal interview. Applicant's representative presented proposed claim amendments to Examiner Thomas during the personal interview. In view of the personal interview, Applicant amends the claims in the manner discussed below to place this application in condition for allowance.

The Office Action, on page 2, objects to claims 9 and 10 for informalities. Claim 9 is amended to obviate this objection. Claim 10 is not redundant because it now depends from claim 11. Accordingly, withdrawal of the objection to claims 9 and 10 are respectfully requested.

The Office Action, on page 7, states that claim 11 is allowed. Applicant appreciates this indication of allowance and amends dependent claims 2, 5 and 7-10 to depend from allowed claim 11.

The Office Action, on page 3, rejects claims 1-10 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,657,525 to Dickens et al. (hereinafter "Dickens") in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,029,805 to Albarda et al. (hereinafter "Albarda"). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

As discussed above, Applicant amends claims 2, 5 and 7-10 to depend from allowed claim 11, and cancels claims 1, 3, 4 and 12 to place this application in condition for allowance.

Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejection of claims 1-10 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Dickens in view of Albarda are respectfully requested.

In view of the foregoing, Applicant respectfully submits that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of claims 2 and 5-11 are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



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WPB:MJS/lmf

Attachment:
Petition for Extension of Time

Date: April 8, 2010

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